



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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April 28, 2015

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Richard Sanchez
Chief Information Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Sanchez", is written over the printed name and title.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY OPEN DATA TASK FORCE (BOARD MOTION, AGENDA ITEM NO. 3, JANUARY 20, 2015)

This memorandum is in response to the January 20, 2015, Board Motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas that directed the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to:

1. Establish and administer a Los Angeles County Open Data Website to consolidate and unify existing departmental open data efforts onto one platform; and
2. Establish a County Open Data Task Force (Task Force) under the leadership of the CIO, or his designee, to work with County departments to identify additional datasets that could be published openly on the County Open Data Website in machine-readable format and report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days on the findings of the Task Force.

To address the first directive, the Office of the CIO issued a solicitation and awarded the Agreement to Socrata, a firm that specializes in open data sharing and used by many state and local agencies. With Socrata, the County will consolidate all current publically available data files onto a single location. Additionally, site visitors will be able to use standard visualization tools to create graphs, charts, and maps to view the data. For program developers, a non-proprietary interface is available to access any dataset on the system so that entrepreneurs and businesses can access the data in machine-readable format and, using application programming interfaces, develop applications or use data for analysis and research.

County staff has been working with Socrata and are preparing to launch the County's Open Data Website in this month. The ten participating departments and the list of the datasets are included in Attachment I.

The second directive is to expand the County Open Data website and enhance its usability and value. On January 27, 2015, a memo sent to all Department Heads and Commissioners provided an overview on the County Open Data Initiative and invited them to send a representative to participate in an Open Data Task Force. On February 3, 2015, fourteen Department and Commission representatives participated in the Task Force.

Over several meetings the Task Force discussed the values of Open Data and the commitment to become the largest municipal government in the nation to make open data easily accessible to the public. In reviewing and evaluating potential datasets for inclusion, the Task Force considered four factors to provide an objective methodology for open data value:

1. County's Open Data Website will enable access to data and information created by and available from County departments;
2. County Open Data Website will be a technology solution to improve transparency, public awareness, and stimulate innovation and community-based data-driven application development;
3. Task Force members will provide education and guidance on the value of open data to departmental executives facilitating greater engagement in the County Open Data Website; and
4. Open data will not include datasets that are protected by regulation and laws. Anonymization will be used when necessary.

Task Force members identified twenty additional datasets (Attachment II) that in consultation with the respective departments are of significant value and could be published as open datasets. These datasets require additional analysis and preparation before being added to the County Open Data Website.

As a go-forward approach, the CIO will:

- ▶ Work with County departments to review and finalize the plan to publish twenty additional datasets on the County Open Data Website; and
- ▶ Establish a County Open Data Council, under the leadership of the Chief Data Officer, to serve as the steering committee for the County Open Data Initiative. The Council will work with departments to develop a strategy to improve the value of the Open Data Website by increasing the number of datasets, by adding data analytics, improving visualizations, and generating performance metrics.

The Open Data Website Initiative is a significant action undertaken by the County to improve transparency and openness. The Chief Data Officer and Task Force Members have made good strides in moving this Initiative forward, and with continued support by the Board and Departments will ensure its success.

If you have any questions or require further information on this matter, please feel free to contact me at 213-253-5600 or your staff may contact Ali Farahani, Ph.D., Chief Data Officer at 213-253-5634 or afarahani@cio.lacounty.gov.

RS:AF:pa

Attachments

c: All Department Heads

County of Los Angeles Open Data - Phase One	
DEPARTMENT	Datasets in Phase One - 48
Auditor-Controller	Budget Appropriation
	Expenditures
	Employee Salary
Assessor	Assessor Parcel Data: Valuation and property description for parcels on the Assessor's annual secured assessment roll for 2014.
Human Services	Employee Count by Gender and Ethnicity
	Employee Count by Job Category (approximately 20 categories)
	Employee Count by Department
Internal Services / Enterprise GIS	Locations/Points of Interest: Points of interest and services file, which are also in the County's Services locator.
	ZIP Codes and Postal Cities: ZIP Codes and the related US Post Office Names.
	Census Blocks 2010: 2010 Census Block Shapefile. The Shapefile format is a geospatial data format for geographic information system (GIS) software.
	Census Tracts 2010: 2010 Census Tract Shapefile. The Shapefile format is a geospatial data format for geographic information system (GIS) software.
Mental Health	Population Poverty (138% Federal Poverty Level & 200% Federal Poverty Level) and Prevalence Data for Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI) for Calendar Year 2013.
	Population and Prevalence Data for Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI) for Calendar Year 2013.
Public Health	2014 Restaurants And Markets Violations
Public Works	Traffic Count Dataset: The County of Los Angeles conducts over 1,600 vehicular traffic volume counts per year. The data is a compilation of Average Daily Traffic (ADT) gathered largely from the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. The data includes the location, count date, 24-hour ADT, AM Peak, and PM Peak.
Public Social Services (DPSS)	DPSS Application Summary - Received: This dataset shows number of applications were received for what programs from DPSS.
	DPSS Caseload Characteristics - Language: This dataset provides the language of cases with aid from DPSS.
	DPSS Caseload Characteristics - Gender Adult Child: This dataset provides the gender and adult or child status of the clients receiving aid from DPSS.
	DPSS Caseload Characteristics - Ethnicity: This dataset provides the ethnicity of clients receiving aid from DPSS.
	DPSS Caseload Characteristics - Age: This dataset provides the age range of people receiving aid from DPSS.
	DPSS Caseload Characteristics - Citizen Status: This dataset provides the citizen status of clients receiving aid from DPSS.
Regional Planning	Subdivision Activity - Unincorporated Areas: This table represents land subdivisions in the unincorporated area that are recorded, approved, or pending in the subdivision process. These are Tract Maps (TR) and Parcel Maps (PM).
	Subdivision Activity - Unincorporated Areas - Cases by Community/Area: This table represents land subdivisions in the unincorporated area that are recorded, approved, or pending in the subdivision process. These are Tract Maps (TR) and Parcel Maps (PM).

County of Los Angeles Open Data - Phase One	
DEPARTMENT	Datasets in Phase One - 48
Regional Planning	Subdivision Activity - Unincorporated Areas shown with Supervisorial Districts on the map for reference: This table represents land subdivisions in the unincorporated area that are recorded, approved, or pending in the subdivision process. These are Tract Maps (TR) and Parcel Maps (PM).
	Planning Permits and Case Information for Unincorporated Areas: This layer shows the spatial extent of past and currently pending permit cases (e.g., Conditional Use Permits, yard modifications, plot plan reviews, environmental assessments, etc.).
	Business License Referrals: This layer/table was created to track the more than 600 Business License checks, and nearly 75 DMV referrals, that the LA County Department of Regional Planning's Land Development Coordinating Center (LDCC) processes on an annual basis.
	Airports (countywide): Shows airports in Los Angeles County.
	Agricultural Opportunity Area: This identifies areas that are presently or historically used for agricultural purposes.
	Airport Influence Area: An airport influence area is the area which current or future airport-related noise, over flight, safety, and/or airspace protection factors may significantly affect land uses or necessitate restrictions on those uses.
	Zoning - Shaded - Unincorporated Areas: This is zoning for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
	Community Standards District - Unincorporated Areas: The Community Standards Districts (CSDs) are established as supplemental districts to provide a means of implementing special development standards contained in adopted neighborhood, community, area, specific and local coastal plans within the Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, or to provide a means of addressing special problems which are unique to certain geographic areas within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
	Community/Area Plan - Unincorporated Areas: This data depicts generalized land use classifications, each of which is intended to describe the dominant use characteristics within the area covered. There are 12 of these communities with separate 'land use policies' within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.
	Land Use Policy - 1980 General Plan - Unincorporated Areas: Referred to as the "General Plan" and encompasses the unincorporated areas (sometimes referred to as 'islands') NOT COVERED by a community, neighborhood or area plan.
	Planning Area (Dept. of Regional Planning): For planning purposes & reference within the General Plan Update for Los Angeles County (sometimes referred to as the "Planning Areas Framework"). It is a Countywide layer which divides the County of Los Angeles into 11 Planning Areas.
	Equestrian District (EQD): The equestrian district is established as a supplemental district in order to recognize particular areas where the keeping or maintaining of horses and other large domestic animals for the personal use of members of the family residing on the premises has become or is intended to become an integral part of the character of the area.
	Master Plan of Highways: The Master Plan of Highways was originally developed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW); it designates roadways in Los Angeles County by their planned capacity.

County of Los Angeles Open Data - Phase One	
DEPARTMENT	<i>Datasets in Phase One - 48</i>
Regional Planning	Rural Lighting Districts (Dark Skies): This project is an amendment to Title 22 of the County Code, Planning and Zoning, to establish a Rural Outdoor Lighting District for areas of unincorporated Los Angeles County.
	Significant Ecological Areas (SEA): SEA means an area that is determined to possess an example of biotic resources that cumulatively represent biological diversity for the purposes of protecting biotic diversity, as part of the County's or LA City general plan.
	Significant Ridgelines within Community Standards Districts (CSDs): This layer delineates ridgelines within selected CSDs whereupon restrictions are established for grading and ridgeline development.
	Town Council Area - Unincorporated Areas: A town council is a democratically elected form of government for small municipalities or civil parishes in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
	Transit Oriented District (TOD) - Unincorporated Areas: Transit oriented districts are established as supplemental districts in order to promote transit-oriented and pedestrian-oriented development, to increase transit use, to manage traffic congestion, and to improve air quality.
	Zoned Districts (ZD) - Unincorporated Areas: These districts were established when zoning was created for Los Angeles County. It was a way to break the County up into distinct areas, smaller units, for easier record keeping and organization.
	Santa Catalina Island - Land Use Districts: This is a separate zoning layer from the rest of the County as it has different categories.
	Specific Plans - Unincorporated Areas: A Specific Plan implements the General Plan/Community Plan and is a more detailed version of the General Plan for a focused area. The Specific Plan articulates planning considerations and imposes regulations or controls. • 3rd Street Specific Plan • La Vina • Newhall Ranch • Northlake • Santa Catalina Island • Universal City
	Major Planning Efforts – Unincorporated Areas: Major planning projects underway by the LA County Department of Regional Planning in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
Registrar-Recorder / County Clerk	Los Angeles County Historical Election Results. The Historical Election dataset describes the results of previous elections held by Los Angeles County. The dataset provides information on the votes cast per precinct for the each candidate/ballot measure. The total vote count is also broken down by actual election day ballots and absentee ballots.
Sheriff	All Part I & Part II Crimes By Year from 2005 - 2014 by Crime Type, Date of Occurrence, Street Address, City and Zip Code.
	All Part I & Part II Crimes for the last 12 months, updated daily. The posted data includes Crime type, Date of Occurrence, Street Address, City and Zip Code.

County of Los Angeles Open Data - Phase Two

DEPARTMENT	Datasets in Phase Two - 20
Arts Commission	Works of art in the County collection. The County's collection is comprised of contemporary and historic permanent public artworks located on County property. The breadth of the collection includes artworks that have been donated to the County, artworks commissioned under the auspices of the Board of Supervisors and various County Departments, pilot projects managed by the Arts Commission that led to the establishment of the Civic Art Program, and artworks created since the 2005 launch of the new Civic Art Program.
	Grantees of our Organizational Grants Program. The Arts Commission makes grants to approximately 380 arts organizations across the County through the Organizational Grant Program (OGP) to provide arts services. In 2014 the Arts Commission allocated \$4.5 million in grants.
	Free concerts and other public performances. Funded by the Board of Supervisors, the Arts Commission allocates funds to pay musicians to perform free concerts at community venues throughout the County, providing the public with access to quality music programming that represents the diversity of County residents.
	Community Arts Partners serving schools in LA County. The Arts Commission conducted a survey of teaching artists and arts nonprofits to discover how many schools across LA County have partnerships with these community arts partners. The survey found 185 arts partners serving 1,174 schools in 79 of LA County's 81 districts in the 2012-13 school year.
Assessor	Sales List: Provides property description and unverified sales information for all Los Angeles County parcels transferred within two (2) years of the list date.
	Publicly Owned Parcels: Provides basic information on all parcels within Los Angeles County owned by governmental or public agencies.
	Parcel Change Report: Provides parcel change information for all cuts/combines processed within Los Angeles County during the preceding 24 months. Allows for tracing of individual parcel genealogy - parent parcel(s),
	Cross Reference Roll: Provides valuation and property description for parcels on the Assessor's annual Cross Reference Roll, including Lifts, Water/Oil/Mineral Rights, Possessory Interest, and Mobile (Manufactured)
	Apartment House Listing: Provides basic information for all residential income properties within Los Angeles County having five (5) or more units.
Human Resources	Employee Count by Cluster and then by Department.
	Employee Demographic Statistics.
Internal Services	Building Utility Usage reports: Provides monthly gas and electricity usage reports for (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) LEED-certified and other County-owned buildings.
	Clean Fuel Vehicle report: Provides a basic breakdown of the County's vehicle fleet by department and fuel type (Gas, Electric, Hybrid).
	Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Provides monthly utilization statistics for all publicly accessible Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE or "charging stations") sites provided by the County. The County has
Public Health	Births and Deaths in Los Angeles County: These datasets belong to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and are posted on CDPH's open data portal.
	Leading Causes of Death in LA County by gender, race/ethnicity, and Service Planning Area (SPA), 2000-2011: Data table of the top 10 leading causes of death, by demographics and SPA geography.
	Infant Mortality by race/ethnicity and Service Planning Area, 2012: Data table of number of infant deaths and infant death rate (per 1000 live births), by race/ethnicity and SPA geography.

County of Los Angeles Open Data - Phase Two

DEPARTMENT	Datasets in Phase Two - 20
Public Health	Life expectancy in LA County by gender, race/ethnicity, and Service Planning Area, 2011: Data table of life expectancy for LA County by demographics and SPA geography.
	Los Angeles County Health Survey, Health Indicators, 2011: Data table of key indicators of health by demographics and SPA geography.
Treasurer and Tax Collector	County Business License information: County business licensing is required for specific business types which are located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, and the cities of Malibu, Santa Clarita and